II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.(Currently Amended)   In a franking machine, a control system comprising:

a system controller; and

a control interface for manually entering data and system directives, said control interface comprising:

a touch screen ~~display~~; and

a display generator adapted to generate display<u>s</u> ~~screens~~ <u>on</u> <u>said touch screen, said display generator defining</u>~~having~~ a plurality of touch button regions <u>on said touch screen</u>;

wherein said control system is adapted to generate main ~~screens~~ <u>displays</u> and work ~~screens~~ <u>displays</u>, <u>each of</u> said ~~screens~~ <u>displays</u> also comprising main areas for entering current data and directives, and history tabs adapted to activate displays for viewing the status and previous action associated with a ~~categories~~ <u>category</u> of functions or information, and allowing a user to change information in the category associated with each specific history tab <u>by using said touch button regions</u>.

2. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said history tabs activate displays for only one previous history of the category associated therewith.

3. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said history tabs activate displays for categories of mandatory franking information.

4. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said history tabs activate displays for categories of rate-related information.

5. (Currently Amended) In a franking system, a control interface for manually entering data and system directives, said control interface comprising:

a touch screen ~~display~~;

a display generator adapted to generate display~~s~~ ~~screens~~ having a plurality of touch button regions_defined therein_; and

a user display preference control coupled to said display generator, and adapted to control the grouping and orientation of said touch button regions.

6. (Original) The control interface in Claim 5, wherein said display preference control and said display generator are adapted to locate groups with more frequently touched touch button regions in a user-chosen hemisphere of displays.

3

7. (Original) The control interface in Claim 6, wherein said user-chosen hemisphere corresponds to the dominant side of the user's body.

8. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, further comprising a display preference control coupled to said display generator, and adapted to control the grouping and orientation of said touch button regions.

9. (Original) The control interface in Claim 8, wherein said display preference control and said display generator are adapted to locate groups with more frequently touched touch button regions in a user-chosen hemisphere of displays.

10. (Original) The control interface in Claim 9, wherein said user-chosen hemisphere corresponds to the dominant side of the user's body.

11. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said control system is further adapted to assign a particular advertisement field to be included in indicia printed on mail or mail labels, the particular advertisement field depending on the account to which mail being franked is charged.

12. (Original) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said control system is further adapted to assign a particular advertisement field to be included in indicia printed on mail or mail labels, the particular advertisement field depending on the user operating said franking machine.

13. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 1, wherein said control interface further comprises an overlay ~~screen~~ display activation key adapted to activate an series of overlay ~~screens~~ displays linked to said main ~~screens~~ displays or said work ~~screens~~displays, said overlay ~~screens~~ displays adapted for entry of data or commands without closing the associated main or work ~~screen~~displays.

14. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 13, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with display settings.

15. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 13, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with print engine management.

5

16. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 13, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with print position settings.

17. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 13, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with motor control settings.

18. (Currently Amended) The control system in Claim 13, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with user context-sensitive information.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the operation of a franking machine having a system controller and a control interface, said control interface including a touch screen, said method comprising the steps of:

~~providing system control via a system controller;~~

~~providing a control interface;~~

via said control interface, manually entering data and system directives;

generating ~~via said control interface, a~~ touch ~~screen~~ sensitive displays on said touch screen; and

6

~~via a display generator, generating display screens having~~defining a plurality of touch button regions within said touch sensitive displays;

wherein said displays ~~screens~~ comprise main ~~screens~~ displays and work ~~screens~~displays, each of said ~~screens~~ displays also comprising main areas for entering current data and directives, and history tabs adapted to activate displays for viewing the status and previous action associated with a ~~categories~~ category of functions or information, and allowing a user to change information in the category associated with each specific history tab.

20. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of, via said history tabs, activating displays for only one previous history of the category associated therewith.

21. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of, via said history tabs, activating displays for categories of mandatory franking information.

22. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of, via said history tabs, activating displays for categories of rate-related information.

23. (Currently Amended) In a franking system, ~~having a~~ control ~~interfacing~~ interface, a method for manually entering data and system directives, ~~said control interface method~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a touch screen ~~display~~;

~~via a display generator,~~ generating touch sensitive displays on said touch screens, said displays having a plurality of touch button regions; and

~~via a user display preference control coupled to said display generator, controlling the~~ grouping and ~~orientation~~ orienting~~of~~ said touch button regions.

24. (Original) The method in Claim 23, further comprising the step of locating groups with more frequently touched touch button regions in a user-chosen hemisphere of displays.

25. (Original) The method in Claim 24, wherein said user-chosen hemisphere corresponds to the dominant side of the user's body.

26. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of, via a display preference control coupled to said display generator, controlling the grouping and orientation of said touch button regions.

27. (Original) The method in Claim 26, further comprising the step of locating groups with more frequently touched touch button regions in a user-chosen hemisphere of displays.

28. (Original) The method in Claim 27, wherein said user-chosen hemisphere corresponds to the dominant side of the user's body.

29. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of assigning a particular advertisement field to be included in indicia printed on mail or mail labels, the particular advertisement field depending on the account to which mail being franked is charged.

30. (Original) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of assigning a particular advertisement field to be included in indicia printed on mail or mail labels, the particular advertisement field depending on the user operating said franking machine.

31. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 19, further comprising the step of, via said control interface, activating via an overly ~~screen~~ display activation ~~screen~~ key, a series of overlay ~~screens~~ displays linked to said main ~~screens~~ displays or

said work ~~screens~~displays, said overlay ~~screens~~ displays for entry of data or commands without closing the associated main or work ~~screen~~displays.

32. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 31, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with display settings.

33. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 31, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with print engine management.

34. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 31, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with print position settings.

35. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 31, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with motor control settings.

36. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 31, wherein said overlay ~~screens~~ displays are associated with user context-sensitive information.